

THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INCORPORATED

479 Huntington Avenue
Boston 15, Massachusetts

NEWSLETTER NUMBER FORTY-SEVEN

December, 1962

COLLÈGE DE FRANCE
Cabinet d'Égyptologie
Inventaire B 10.495.....



THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt was one of unusual importance, and it was particularly gratifying to find that many members showed their continuing interest in the work of our organization by attending in person. Among those who came from a long distance were Professors Aziz Atiya of the University of Utah, Klaus Baer of the University of California, Oleg Grabar of the University of Michigan, Nicholas Heer of Stanford, and Mr. and Mrs. Husselman of Ann Arbor. Others came from the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Boston and vicinity.

A full report of the meeting follows. It is hoped that those members who were unable to be present will read it carefully, for it contains, among other matters of interest, a report of the Administrative Vice-President on a proposed expansion of the Center's research activities in Egypt with the aid of funds provided by the United States Government and with the cooperation of American universities which have programs of Near Eastern Studies.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. in the Lecture Hall of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, with 127 members present in person or by proxy, with Mr. Edward W. Forbes, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Forbes inaugurated the meeting by presenting the following report:

Report of the President

It is with the greatest regret that I make my last appearance before you as President of the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc., but as I have informed the Executive Committee, I feel that the time has come for me to retire from active leadership. This does not mean that my interest in the Center or my concern for its future is in any way less than it has been in the past. I hope to continue from behind the scene my support of its aims.

I am happy to say that I am not leaving a sinking ship. The Center is flourishing as never before in its history. It has, first of all, been formally recognized by the Government of the U. A. R. as an American Cultural Institution established in Egypt. This seal of approval seems to me a just reward for the devotion and discretion exercised during the past twelve years by the succession of scholars who have so ably represented the Center in Cairo, often at considerable sacrifice of their own scholarly aims. We owe them our sincere thanks.

Moreover, as all of you who have read the Newsletters know, the Center has realized two ambitions which it voiced a decade ago, when such realization seemed very far indeed in the future - first, the ambition to conduct excavation

in Egypt and, second, to issue a scholarly publication of its own. The first season of excavation will be inaugurated in January at Gebel Adda in Nubia, and the first volume of the publication will soon be in your hands. Dr. William Stevenson Smith, who as Administrative Vice-President has been of invaluable assistance to the Center during the past several years, will report to you more fully on Gebel Adda, and Mr. Edward L. B. Terrace, Editor of the Journal will speak to you about that publication and its future.

Last year, the Center was able to report a gift to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo of a fragment of relief from the Great Temple at Deir-el-Bahri, procured through the agency of Nicholas Millet, Director in Cairo. This year a gift has gone to the Islamic Museum of the same city. Our Trustee, Dr. Myron Bement Smith, has donated to that institution, in the name of the Center, an early and rare Islamic manuscript, of beautiful calligraphy. This manuscript, which is exhibited for your admiration near the exit of this hall, is dated 9 Rabi' I, 106 H. (A.D. 4 August, 724). I am sure that in thanking Dr. Myron Smith for his generous act, I am voicing the gratitude of all our members present and absent.

In conclusion, permit me once more to express my regret in retiring from active service, to thank you all for your faithful support, and to assure you of my continued loyalty to the Center.

Edward W. Forbes

This report was followed by a brief address by Mr. Dows Dunham, who voiced the regret felt by all the members of the Center at losing the President who has guided the organization so wisely during the first dozen years of its existence:

As one of the original members of the Center, I should like to say a few words in appreciation of the invaluable services rendered to us over the years by Edward Forbes. Despite the many interests which had long engaged his thoughts and energies at Harvard, the Fogg, Dumbarton Oaks, Prof. Whittemore's work on the Mosaics of Hagia Sofia, to name only a few that come to mind, he was willing to take the presidency of the Center, and to guide its development from infancy to its present state of promise. Not only has he led us with wise council, but it has been very largely through his initiative and the prestige which he has brought to us, that we have obtained the financial backing which has made it possible for us to exist. Among others who have lent us support I mention only the late Robert Woods Bliss, whose interest we owe to Mr. Forbes, and above all we owe him the backing of the Bollingen Foundation which has made possible the sending of our scholars into the field for a number of years past, scholars whose work in Egypt has led directly to the Center's official recognition by the Egyptian Government as a scholarly research institution.

After these many years of effective and self-sacrificing service to the Center, it would be ungracious of us to begrudge him the rest from his labors which he has requested and so richly deserves. I am sure that I express the feelings of all the officers and members when I say to him that we are deeply grateful for his wise guidance in our formative years, and that we hope long to benefit by his continuing interest and counsel as the Honorary President of the Center, for which position the Executive Committee has unanimously proposed him.

Report of the Administrative Vice-President

Dr. William Stevenson Smith spoke briefly to the membership on the excavation of the Center at Gebel Adda in Nubia, which will begin in January. This excavation is being undertaken with the aid of counterpart funds (that is, funds available only in Egyptian pounds and available for use only in Egypt), which have been allotted to the Center by the United States Government. The work will require, however, some dollar expenditure in the United States, and Dr. Smith was able to announce a generous grant of \$15,000 from the National Geographic Society to cover such expenditure.

Of even greater importance to the Center is the proposed expansion of research in Egypt, which Dr. Smith announced to the membership. During the past fiscal year, on the recommendation of the Department of State and the United States Ambassador in Cairo, the officers of the Center were approached by a group of representatives of six leading universities, who asked that the Center take charge of a program of study in which those universities and others would participate, again with the aid of counterpart funds available in Egypt. This would be equivalent to making the Center an American Academy in Egypt, similar to the American Academy in Rome or the American School in Athens, and would thus fulfil an aim envisaged by the founders of our organization. While nothing has as yet been decided upon, it has been suggested that a sum of two and a half million dollars might be allocated for the first five years of research, this sum available only for expenditure in Egypt. The added expenditure in the United States which such an expanded program would necessarily involve would be met, at least in part, by fees paid to the Center by participating universities. It was indicated that a number of institutions in addition to the original six would be ready to share in the program, and it was emphasized that the program would be purely one of research by American scholars; that is, that it would not involve any teaching or other educational activities in Egypt.

The Executive Committee, at a meeting held on December 17, appointed a "Committee on the Cairo Center," consisting of representatives of the Universities and Dr. W. S. Smith, and the latter committee has delegated Dr. Smith and Prof. D. W. Lockard to study the matter further and to continue negotiations with the Department of State, in consultation with the interested universities

and with the Executive Committee of the Center, with which body the final decisions must rest.

Report of the Treasurer

Mr. Dows Dunham prefaced his report with the following remarks:
"As will be seen from the following statement, our expenses for the fiscal year 1961-62 have been unusually heavy, and in preparing a budget for 1962-63, your Treasurer has been faced with a number of factors making valid estimates of expenditures unusually difficult. As you have just learned, discussions are under way among the Executive Committee, a group of representatives of a number of American universities, and the U. S. State Department, looking to an expansion of the Center and the allocation of a large sum from Counterpart Funds for increase of its activities in Egypt. While negotiation of such an expansion will take some time and it may be a year before they result in re-organization and new financing of the Center, he envisages during this period an inevitable increase in activity by the officers and substantial addition to our correspondence and mailing charges, including increase in postage rates for January 1963.

During the past year your Executive Committee decided to issue the Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt as a vehicle for the publication of papers by its members. This decision was made to demonstrate to a wider public the serious scholarly standing of our membership, to afford dignified publicity for the Center and to enhance its standing and prestige with universities, the State Dept., and the Egyptian Government in view of the negotiations about to be undertaken. With our present sources of income (from dues and investments) the cost of publishing the Journal had to be met out of capital, but it was felt by the Committee that we were justified in drawing on our capital to launch the first issue, which, if successful, would in future be paid for, in part at least, by subscriptions.

The expense of maintaining the Cairo office of the Center was met last year in part out of income and in part out of the fund of \$10,000 given to the Center by Mr. and Mrs. John Dimick for that purpose, that fund now standing at \$8,000. In view of our prospective income for the coming year, the bulk of expenses of the Cairo office will have to be taken from this fund unless our income should be substantially increased through additions to membership and/or donations."

Investment Account as of November 9, 1962

596 shares common stock: Average market value 51 1/2 (no purchases or sales).
Average value in 1961 (Nov.) 62 1/2.

75 shares preferred stock: Average market value 82 5/8 (no purchases or sales).
Average value in 1961 (Nov.) 80 1/2.

Bonds, \$2,000. (Sold 4,000 in 1962 to meet cost of Journal).

Total Market Value as of November 9, 1962...\$ 29,218.63. Note that since November 9th the Market Value has appreciated.

Regular Account

Summary of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance in Bank, Sept. 30, 1961 (not including Bollingen Account)... \$ 1,899.12

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 2,115.63
Dividends.....	1,102.56
Donations.....	160.00
	<u>\$ 3,378.19</u>

Total Receipts	<u>\$ 3,378.19</u>
	\$ 5,277.31

Disbursements:

Honorarium Executive Secretary	\$ 599.00
Honorarium Assistant Treasurer	480.00
Honorarium Director in Egypt	400.00
Newsletters (4)	628.00
Postage, Telephone, Telegraph	85.46
Corporation Filing Fee	5.00
General Expenses (Supplies, printing, travel, etc.).....	473.86
Expenses of Annual Meeting.....	136.11

\$2,807.43

Transferred to Cairo Office..... 2,000.00

\$4,807.43

Total Disbursements ... \$ 4,807.43

Balance in Bank, Sept. 30, 1962 (not including Bollingen Account)... \$ 469.88

A detailed account of expenses is available in the Treasurer's Office.

Report of the Membership Secretary

Especially in view of the Treasurer's report, that of Professor Richard A. Parker, Membership Secretary, was somewhat discouraging. Though it records a net loss of only two members, it will readily be seen that the income from dues grows less and less adequate to meet the increasing expenses of the

organization. Considerably more than half of our membership pay dues of five dollars a year; the total of their dues barely covers the cost of the Newsletters. If each of our 219 members would secure only one additional member, the financial burden of the Center would be considerably lightened. Professor Parker's report follows:

During the last year we lost five members due to death, eleven who resigned, and six who permitted their membership to lapse. Twenty new members were admitted. This is a net loss of two in membership.

Our present total of 219 members is divided as follows:

Regular Members	137
Contributing Members	52
Sustaining Members	11
Associates	5
Fellow	1
Life	10
Honorary	3

At the conclusion of this report a minute of silence was observed by the assembly, in honor of the members taken by death during the past year, Robert Woods Bliss, Hans F. Dresel, Frederick Foster, H. Kevorkian, and Stephen B. Luce, all of them members of long standing.

Report on the Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt

By this time the members have in their hands the new Journal of the Center, the dignified appearance and careful preparation of which is due to the Editor, Mr. Edward L. B. Terrace, who has seen it through the press at considerable sacrifice of time and energy. The Center owes great thanks to him and to the contributors who have furnished scholarly contributions of which the organization can be justly proud. Mr. Terrace reported Volume I, 1962, had appeared and that members would soon have copies in hand. An edition of 680 copies was printed, of which nearly 200 will go to members. Announcements were published in American Journal of Archaeology and in Archaeology; and circulars were mailed to nearly 400 scholars and institutions. Already over 50 subscriptions have been received and it is supposed that the number will increase as soon as the Journal is better known. The response to the first volume is encouraging but the high cost of printing makes it imperative that additional support be given the Center, if the Journal is to

uphold the standards set already.

Election of Officers

The Executive Secretary was authorized by unanimous vote of the assembled members to cast one vote for the following officers:

President.....William Stevenson Smith

Honorary President.....Edward W. Forbes

Vice-Presidents John Wilson
William Kelly Simpson
Mrs. Joseph Lindon Smith

Honorary Vice-Presidents...William Phillips
K. A. C. Creswell

Treasurer Dows Dunham
Assistant Treasurer..... Mary B. Cairns

Membership Secretary Richard A. Parker

Executive Secretary Elizabeth Riefstahl

Executive Committee:

William Stevenson Smith, Chairman, ex-officio
Dows Dunham
Richard A. Parker
Ashton Sanborn
Martha Smith
D. W. Lockard
John D. Cooney

Alternates: Executive Committee

Bernard V. Bothmer
William Kelly Simpson
Elizabeth Riefstahl

Trustees:

Robert M. Adams, Director, Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago
John Dimick
Richard Parker, Brown University
D. W. Lockard, Harvard University
William Schorger, University of Michigan
Morroe Berger, Princeton University
Frederick Cox, Portland State College

Program of Papers Read at the Annual Meeting

Following the custom initiated in 1961, a program of papers was presented,

preceding and following the business meeting. We are most grateful to those members of the Center who contributed in this way to making the meeting a memorable one for members and their guests. It is hoped that Volume II of the Journal of the Center may contain all or part of the papers read, together with additional contributions of scholarly interest.

Program

Morning Session:

The Study of Egyptian Bronzes: Bernard V. Bothmer

The Development of Ornament in 9th Century Islamic Tombstones: George C. Miles

An Early Christian Sculpture from Egypt; Arise Take Up Thy Bed and Walk: John D. Cooney

Mail Service in the Egyptian New Kingdom: Klaus Baer

Afternoon Session:

The Yale-Pennsylvania Expedition, 1962: William Kelly Simpson

The Minaret as Expression of Cultural Harmony and Diversity (with special reference to Egypt): Myron Bement Smith

THE CHANGING FACE OF CAIRO

A Letter from Nicholas B. Millet,
Director in Cairo

Dear Members:

Those of you who have lived in Cairo or have spent enough time there to become familiar with the city may be interested in learning something of the many and striking changes that have recently taken place in the physical appearance of the old capital. As a result of the land reforms, which have meant the breaking up of large estates and the crumbling of the age-old tradition that the acquisition of agricultural lands was the soundest form of investment, those who have money to invest have used it to finance the building of apartments and offices. The result has been a sudden boom in construction, which has been encouraged by the government as a means of decreasing unemployment. There is literally hardly a single city block that does not now resound to the clang of construction workers driving piles, and the returning old Cairo hand frequently finds himself lost. The city is rapidly assuming a new look, which is apparent even to me, who have lived in Cairo only for the past three years.

As is common in many revolutionary countries, even many of the street names have been changed, either on account of uncomfortable associations or because of a desire to pay honor to recent heroes. Thus old Boulaq Street, first renamed Sharia Fuad el-Awal, is now called Twenty-sixth-of-July Street, in commemoration of the day on which the Suez Canal Company was nationalized. More recently, the familiar Suliman Pasha has given way to Taalat Harb, and the old Sharia Ibrahim, on which the famous Cairo Opera House stands, has become Sharia el-Gumhuriya, the Street of the Republic. The great square by the river, once the Midan Qasr el-Nil, is now Midan el-Tahrir -- Liberation Square -- and the entire aspect of the area near which the former British Barracks stood has enormously changed.

After the Qasr el-Nil barracks and the enclosure in which they stood had been razed, the land remained vacant for many years. Though once assigned to the Egyptian Museum as a site for a proposed new building, it was eventually transferred to the Hilton Hotel Company, which has built on it the huge and very modern structure that dominates the entire plaza. Mosaics more or less in ancient Egyptian style decorate both front and rear facades, the city side being ornamented with unfortunate abstract hieroglyphs, which have caused not a few knitted brows among visiting Egyptologists seeing them for the first time. The building, some ten stories high, is topped by a rectangular block of bright blue, and it seems to have inspired a trend in modern Cairene architecture.

Just to the north of the Hilton is the equally tall and rather imposing Municipality Building, which not only houses government offices but has on its top floor a series of exhibition halls in which have been held several recent art and educational exhibits, including the American-sponsored "Family of Man" shown here last year. South of the Hilton is the Arab League Building, which somewhat conforms with the Municipality Building in style. All in all, the river bank at this point has changed during the past few years out of all recognition. The Midan el-Tahrir is surrounded on all sides by imposing modern structures, with a dazzling display of large neon signs on rooftops lending an effect reminiscent of Piccadilly Circus.

As one proceeds north along the corniche toward the quarter of Boulak, one finds the river view again modified by the enormous Television Building, a drum-shaped structure more useful than beautiful. Thus the entire east bank of the Nile between the Qasr el-Nil bridge and Boulak presents a more or less continuous series of large buildings around ten stories high. Across the river, at the western end of the bridge, another huge government building has destroyed the pleasant garden-island appearance of the Zamalek quarter. A bit to the north of it stands the obelisk of Ramesses II, the erection of which I described in Newsletter Number Forty-One. It is now surrounded by a well-landscaped public garden, which unfortunately can be seen to good advantage only from the Zamalek side. The most prominent feature of the island is now the Burg el-Qahira, the "Cairo Tower," which was opened last year and has become one of the chief tourist attractions of the city. A huge steel and concrete construction, higher than the Great Pyramid, this tower serves a double purpose of communications and sight-

seeing. From a revolving restaurant at the top of it, one obtains a magnificent view of Cairo. The city is a vast one; at night its thousands of lights seem to sprawl into infinitude, and the effect is much like that of Los Angeles as seen by night from the air.

On the island of Roda to the south, a new mosque has been erected at the end of the University Bridge. Built of fine white limestone and provided with two very striking minarets, this newest of Cairo's long line of official mosques is a worthy successor of those of the Mamelukes. No one has described the interior to me, but the exterior is magnificent, and it seems rather a pity that the mosque could not have been more centrally located.

In the near future, travelers arriving by air will be landed at the new Cairo airport, which has just been completed to take the place of the former totally inadequate building, but has not yet been opened, due to lack of materials for the interior decoration. The building, probably one of the largest in the world, is in modern style and will incorporate a shopping center for tourists in passage, similar to that in the airport at Rome. Another new airport building is already in operation at Alexandria.

For the rest, a series of large new rest houses has been planned and partially completed for tourists visiting the main monuments of ancient Egypt. Immediately in front of the Sphinx and the Valley Temple of Chephren at Giza, a long, low building houses refreshment bars and rest rooms, and a somewhat larger building has been completed at Saqqara, a few steps north of the Serapeum. Both of these structures have been rather cleverly designed to hold the maximum in the way of facilities but not to loom so large as completely to destroy the view. I understand that the new rest house now under construction in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes has not been so successfully planned. Visitors returning from Luxor complain that the Valley has been robbed of its former stark grandeur.

Nicholas B. Millet

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

A Letter from Donald P. Little,
Fellow of the Center

Cairo, October 31, 1962

Dear Members:

The date I set for myself as a deadline for submitting my first report for the Newsletter has come and gone all too quickly. I had hoped, with what I now recognize as unbridled optimism, that at the end of my first month in Egypt I would be able to compile information of interest to members of the Center, while at the same time getting myself quartered in and oriented to Cairo, beginning my

research and meeting scholars to guide it, and familiarizing myself with the Islamic monuments of the city. Needless to say, a month has hardly made a dent in this ambitious program, but I have dented it sufficiently to realize that my season here will be both edifying and delightful.

Having accepted the kind invitation of the Director of the Center, Nicholas Millet, to occupy one of the two bedrooms in the office of the Center in Zamalek while searching for digs of my own, I was finally able, after a long and often frustrating search, to find a comfortable flat, which I am sharing with an American who is studying Arabic at Cairo University under a government fellowship provided by the UAR. This flat, at 13 Sharia Mahmud Bassyuni, Apartment 39, Bloc B, affords from its porch and balconies a splendid view of the Nile, the pyramids, and the Citadel, not to mention myriad minarets -- a view I shall be only too happy to share with members visiting Cairo during the coming year.

The main problem faced by a newcomer to Cairo -- if one excludes that posed by the maze of streets, most of which are as yet blithely ignored by nearly all available maps, and all of which teem with people on foot and employing every conceivable means of transportation -- is the problem of languages. I had hoped that a month would be sufficient for me (with my knowledge of classical and colloquial Iraqi Arabic) to learn to chat fluently with all Egyptian comers. I knew, of course, that Cairenes speak nothing remotely similar to either the classical or the Baghdad language, but I did not know how many of them are fluent in English and insist upon using English in conversation. Practice in the colloquial language is hard to come by -- except, as I can attest from my own experience, with the police. In addition to the routine registration of residence with neighborhood precincts required of all foreigners, I have had to communicate with night sergeants, special investigators, and mudiirs, all of whom have been most assiduous and cooperative in trying to apprehend the thief who picked my pocket while I was riding in a crowded bus. My trip to the central police headquarters in 'Ataba, where I tried to identify the culprit from hundreds of photographs on file there, became a festive occasion when the staff learned that I was an American engaged in the study of medieval Egyptian history and the Arabic language. I was asked to read and translate, not once but several times, from a biography of Ibn Taimiya that I happened to have with me. Much tea and many cigarettes were enjoyed in the friendliest of atmospheres -- but I was unable to identify the pickpocket.

I am by no means the only American in Cairo studying Arabic and Islamic history. The city seems to be besieged by young scholars working with the Arabic sources, medieval and modern, here available. Most of us are using the Center for Arabic Studies at the American University as home base. The staff there, headed by Professor Marsden Jones, has set up a flexible program for assisting foreign students, both by guiding their research in conjunction with their parent universities and by arranging for them to meet with Egyptian scholars who are specialized in their fields of interest. The Center for Arabic Studies is embarking on an extensive program of research and publication, with special emphasis on nineteenth and twentieth century Arabic literature and related subjects.

At present some twenty-three graduate students are studying under this program, hailing from such diverse regions as the United States, Britain, Germany, Pakistan, and the United Arab Republic itself. Five of these students hold generous fellowships offered by the Center for Arabic Studies, which hopes substantially to increase the number of such fellowships next year and in subsequent years. In addition to serving the needs of visitors from abroad, the Center for Arabic Studies plans to offer orientation and training for students selected by the government of the UAR to pursue specialized studies in the United States.

I am availing myself of the opportunities offered by the American University by enrolling, along with some fifty-eight others, in a course in colloquial Egyptian Arabic. I am also auditing a course in 'Abbasid literature conducted by Professor Mohammed Nowaihi. I have begun my own research in Mamluk-Mongol relationships with the help of Professor Thomas Naff, lecturer in History at the Center for Arabic Studies, and of Mohammed Rashad 'Abd al-Muttalib, Acting Director of the Institute of Arabic Manuscripts of the Arab League, both of whom have been most generous with their time and counsel in helping me to locate and utilize the materials available in the various libraries and institutes in Cairo.

My attempt to familiarize myself with the treasure of Islamic monuments in Cairo has been greatly facilitated by the guidance of Dr. George Scanlon, former fellow and director in Cairo of the American Research Center in Egypt. Under the auspices of the Fulbright office, Dr. Scanlon has been giving a series of lectures on the history of medieval Egypt and conducting tours of the principal monuments of Cairo. His erudition and enthusiasm have gained him a large and faithful following from the American community. Two weeks ago, on a fiercely hot Sunday, no less than seventy-three men, women, and children accompanied him on a tour at the North Wall. Future visitors to Cairo will be pleased to learn that some of his wealth of knowledge will shortly be available in the form of a guide-book to the Islamic monuments of Cairo.

Donald P. Little

MOSTLY ALEXANDRIA

Letter from Dawson Kiang,
Fellow of the Center

Cairo, October 30, 1962

Dear Members:

It is now just a month since we arrived in Cairo from New York. Had I written this a week after arrival I might have said something about the stately manner in which Egyptian weather progresses, from the baking 97 that greeted us at Cairo Airport to the much more bearable and seasonable days in the 80's that soon followed. We were told it had been a sizzling summer but that, once broken,

the heat would not return in any such capricious way as an Indian summer. During the second week it was with us again; even the citizens complained as they headed for the beaches of Alexandria. Yet here one has a sensation of ponderous majesty; one can almost feel the actual rotation of the earth on its axis as day passes into night, and its revolution around the sun as summer passes into autumn. The sun is such a power here. Its daily course cannot be ignored as it usually is by the Manhattan apartment dweller, and that huge ball of fire moves ponderously.

In a way it is typical of Egypt that a subject such as the weather takes on fresh interest. If travel is broadening, it is partly because the range of one's experience of the basic elements of human life is extended. This is eminently true of Egypt, whose climate, landscape, customs are discoveries for us. In the 5th century B.C. Herodotus (II.35) wrote that the Egyptians had seemingly reversed the ordinary practices of mankind. This is not the kind of statement that can be judged true or false, but it gives a neat expression to that quality of strangeness always associated with Egypt. An American coming to Egypt for the first time, however, need hardly worry about it being so exotic that he is unable to do or get what he wants. If he chooses, he may do Egypt speaking English alone, eating European and American food only, and without experiencing anything resembling discomfort or unpleasantness. He will still leave with unforgettable memories.

To the more independent, or more leisurely, or more committed traveller, guidebooks and language aids are useful. I was a little worried when I couldn't find in New York City a copy of the Guide Bleu for Egypt (1956), but it is readily available here, together with a paper-bound abridged version (1962) of the sections on Cairo and Alexandria. This is handy, has a nice improved fold-out map of Cairo, but is not otherwise more up-to-date, and of course is not as full as the larger volume. Less comprehensive, with less detailed maps, but quite useful, is one of the German guidebooks on Egypt, in the series Kurt Schroeders Reiseführer by Hermann Ziock, 3rd edition, Bonn 1961. And one should at least make a casual search for an old Baedeker that tells all. Actually what I found myself using most of all was a leaflet on Cairo distributed by the Egyptian State Tourist Administration and containing a good map and lists of embassies, hotels, museums, restaurants, etc. This plus other official tourist literature can be picked up in New York, so you don't need to weigh yourself down with guidebooks which can all be more easily found here. Not to be forgotten is the welcome weekly guide given out at most hotels and airline offices; "This Week in Cairo." (That for Alexandria is called "Two Weeks in Alexandria.") In the map department there is something for everyone, running from a modest tourist map of Cairo published by Lehnert & Landrock, an international bookstore in Cairo, which incidentally also makes the best photo postcards in Egypt, to an official 1-15000 map of Cairo and Heliopolis, or a 1-500000 road map of Egypt published by the Cairo Drafting Office. There is plainly no lack of printed help for the sightseer.

Very soon the spoken language is a temptation, and it's time to learn those surprisingly few phrases and words that greatly increase one's enjoyment of Egypt, and Egypt's enjoyment of oneself. For this purpose I do not know of any phrase-book generally available in America such as those for other languages put out by Dover Publications. In the inexpensive "Teach Yourself" series, Egyptian colloquial

Arabic is now expertly treated by T. F. Mitchell (English Universities Press, London, 1962), but this requires a little more effort than the true phrasebook. Very well done and very practical is a little hard-cover pocket dictionary and phrasebook: English-Arabic Conversational Dictionary, London, Hirschfeld Brothers, 1909, reprinted 1958. It can be ordered from the publisher at 134 Great Portland St., London W.1, or through a bookstore. Again, as in the case of guidebooks, there are obtainable here numerous little serviceable language manuals, primers, self-teachers of the spoken language, many of them published by Elias' Modern Press, Cairo. Movies, radio, television, shopkeepers, fellow-sufferers on the buses -- all these are pretty good teachers too.

A classical archaeologist in Cairo is better off forgetting for the time being his own field and giving himself up to the monuments of Pharaonic, Coptic, and Islamic Egypt. Such fickleness needs no more formal justification than the axiom that it is sometimes in the study of other related fields that one's own proper field is illuminated. In the history of ancient art, as in any subject, there is the danger of too much specialization. On the other hand, competence in more than a couple of areas becomes increasingly difficult as knowledge increases, and those often-expressed feelings of "trepidation at encroaching upon another's speciality" are real. The Egyptian Museum does have on exhibition a small collection of Greek and Roman objects which were almost all here in time for C. C. Edgar's volumes in the *Catalogue Général*. They make a nice prelude to the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria.

Alexandria, November 20, 1962

Dear Members:

Alexandria is a fascinating place! One hears that in recent years, following the large-scale emigration of Europeans, it has become provincial and dull. It is a ghost town. No doubt true, but only in comparison to the golden age just past, when it must truly have been a petit Paris. To a newcomer who has not witnessed or experienced the painful transition to the 20th century, one sight of the graceful sweep of the Eastern Harbor is enough to produce instant infatuation. Anyone with the slightest weakness for the Mediterranean scene will appreciate the white buildings encircling the sea, dazzling in the brilliant light and leading towards the imposing silhouette of Fort Kait Bey on the site of the ancient Pharos. Since Alexandrian antiquities are my main interest, you can hardly find a more biased observer, except maybe the Governor of Alexandria or possibly the Director of the Comité pour le développement du tourisme à Alexandrie. The bolstering of her fortunes in tourism and trade is a recognized problem that receives attention from Cairo as well as from the Governorate of Alexandria itself. The new passenger terminal building at the port is a good example of this concern. And it has not yet been decided whether the excavations at Kom El-Dick by the Polish Center for Mediterranean Archaeology (University of Warsaw) will be allowed to remain as a tourist attraction, with perhaps even a little museum. The decision is not an easy one, since the site is right in the middle of the city between the main railroad station and Avenue el-Horreya, but one hopes that the Polish Center will be permitted to carry on systematic excavation of the site. I leave a discussion of their Early Islamic architectural find to our expert Dr. Scanlon.

Meanwhile, considerable excitement is being built up over the possibilities of underwater archaeology for Alexandria. Not a small source of stimulation are the recurrent reports by divers of fragments of colossal statuary on the floor of the sea, and there is always the chance that part of the Pharos may be recovered. There is some talk of using underwater television to make preliminary exploration at Kait Bey, Silsileh, and Abukir. I wish I were a skin diver, or any kind of diver! But though the sea holds out the promise of spectacular discoveries, the ground still continually yields objects of interest. On the day I arrived in Alexandria, a life-size headless marble statue, of a Roman had just been brought to the Greco-Roman Museum from its previous resting place in the quarter known as "Sporting." Foundations were being laid for a new school at the intersection of Avenue el-Horreya (see E. M. Forster, Alexandria, Doubleday Anchor paperback, 1961, pp. 111-115 for the story of this avenue, which is the old Canopic Way) and Khadr Street, when, appropriately enough, the scholarly Roman gentleman was found with two papyrus rolls on a stand at his right side. He has joined five similar statues in the Museum, and is in more ways than one an academic work. Farther west on Avenue el-Horreya, i.e., "Freedom Avenue," about five meters below ground level, columns and walls were recently found, apparently belonging to some Ptolemaic structure. As the few Ptolemaic remains found in the city to date occur at a depth of 12 to 22 meters, the discovery was something of an anomaly. Unfortunately insufficient funds prevented the preservation and further study of the building. By far the most exciting item for the classical archaeologist is the large fragment of a circular marble altar found this summer in the Mazarita quarter. It has fine high relief figures of the Olympians in varying degrees of preservation, and must be compared with its famous counterparts at Ostia and Madrid, which have been used to reconstruct the East Pediment of the Parthenon (see Rhys Carpenter, Hesperia 2, 1933, 1 ff., Hesperia, Supplement 8, 1949, 71 ff.; Giovanni Becatti, Annuario.Scuola.Atene I-II, 1939-40, 85 ff.). The director of the Greco-Roman Museum, Dr. Henry Riad, hopes to publish this major monument in the near future.

Dawson Kiang

PERSONNEL OF THE EGYPTIAN DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
as of October 21, 1962

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Dr. Taha el-Sheltawi, Deputy Director for the Architectural Section

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Dr. Abdel Hamid Zayid, Editor of Publications
Muhammad Ali Kamal el-Din, Chief Inspector

Bureau of Excavations:

Rashad Nuwer, Director

Bureau of Excavations (continued):

Shafîq Farîd, Chief Inspector
Fuâd Ya'qûb, Inspector
Muhammad Abdel Râziq, Inspector
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Ahmed el-Sai, Inspector
Kamâl Fahmy, Inspector
Muhammad Abdel Muhsin, Inspector
Ahmed Nashâti, Inspector
Ali el-Kholy, Inspector
Muhammad Sâlih, Inspector
Farûq Gum'a, Inspector, posted Aswan
Butrus Nasîn, Inspector, posted Ismailiya Museum
Hassan el-Masri, Inspector, posted Ismailiya Museum
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Abdel Hâfiz Abdel 'Al, Deputy Director

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Ramadân Muhammad, Inspector for Thebes, West Bank
----- el-Shandawîli, Inspector for Qena
Ali Hassan, Inspector for Edfu
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Division of Middle Egypt:

Hishmet Messiha, Chief Inspector (very soon due for transfer, successor
not known)
Ahmed el-Taher, Inspector for Fayum
Osiris Gabriel, Inspector for Mellawi
Fransîs Abdel Malik, Inspector for Tuna el Gebel
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Division of Saqqara:

Muhammad Abdel Tawâb el-Hetta, Chief Inspector
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Fathy Melek, Inspector for Tanta
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Inspectorate of Islamic Monuments:

Dr. Gamal Mihriz, Chief Inspector
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Hassan Abdel Wahhâb, Inspector

Central Architectural Section:

Ibrahim Abdel Azîz, Deputy to Dr. Taha el-Sheltawi
Farîd Shabûry, posted Saqqara
Ahmed Lutfi, posted Nubia
----- Hammûda
----- Bazzân

Architectural Section, Islamic Monuments:

Abbâs Badr, Director
Mustafa Subhi, Architect

Chemical Laboratory:

Dr. Zaki Iskandar, Director
Abdel Latîf Erfân, Assistant

Egyptian Museum (Midan el-Tahrîr, Cairo):

Dr. Victor Antûn Girgis, Director
Abdel Muhsin el Khashâb, Curator
Abdel Qâdir Salîm, Curator
Muhammad Hassan Abdurrahmân, Curator
Gamâl Sâlim, Curator
Miss Diaa Ghazi, Librarian

Coptic Museum (Sh. Mali Girgis, Old Cairo)

Dr. Pahôr Labîb, Director
Raûf Habîb, Curator
----- Halim, Curator

Islamic Museum (Midan Ahmed Maher, Cairo)

Dr. Muhammad Mustafa, Director
Mme. Wafia, Curator

Islamic Museum (continued):

Dr. Abdurrahmân Fahim, Curator
Abdel Raûf Yussef, Curator

Graeco-Roman Museum of the Municipality of Alexandria:

Dr. Henry Riâd, Director
Yussef Hanna, Curator
Yussef Gheriani, Curator

NOTES AND NEWS

At this season, members of the Center may find diverting the description by a pioneer Egyptian archaeologist, Richard Lepsius, of the first Christmas he spent in Egypt, exactly one hundred and twenty years ago.

"On the evening of the first Christmas holiday, I surprised my companions by a great fire, which I had caused to be lighted on the summit of the highest Pyramid. The flame illuminated both the other Pyramids splendidly, as well as the whole field of tombs, and shone quite across the valley as far as Cairo. That was indeed a Christmas Pyramid!.... I then prepared a special Christmas tree for the following day, in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid. We planted a young palm tree in the sarcophagus of the ancient king, and adorned it with lights and small presents, which I had ordered from the town for us children of the desert. St. Silvester must have his honors also. At twelve o'clock on New Year's Eve immense flames rose simultaneously at midnight from the three great Pyramids, and proclaimed the changes of the Christian year, far and wide, to the Islamite provinces at their base."

From Lepsius, Richard, Letters from Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Peninsula of Sinai, London, 1853, p. 55.

The Center for Arabic Studies of the American University at Cairo announces the publication of a Journal of Modern Arabic Studies, which will (as its title implies) concentrate on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It will begin with a single issue for 1963-64 and continue thereafter with two issues per annum. Those who wish to subscribe or to contribute material to this journal should address: The Editors, Journal of Modern Arabic Studies, The American University in Cairo, Sharia Kasr el-Aini, Cairo, Egypt, UAR.

As mentioned above in Mr. Little's letter to members, the Center for Arabic Studies offers a limited number of fellowships available not only for students in the modern field but also for those in the field of mediaeval studies. Those interested in further information concerning these fellowships should write to The Director of the Center for Arabic Studies at the address given above.

The Archaeological Institute of America announces the Olivia James Traveling Fellowship for the academic year 1963-64. This fellowship of \$6,000 is to be used for travel in Greece, the Aegean Islands, Sicily, Southern Italy, Asia Minor, or Mesopotamia for the purpose of study of Classics, sculpture, architecture, archaeology, or history. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, but there are no restrictions as to age, sex, marital status, race, or creed, nor will the award be limited to those registered as students in academic institutions. Application forms will be supplied by the Archaeological Institute of America, 5 Washington Square, North, New York 3, N. Y. The deadline is January 31, 1963, and the award will be announced on March 1, 1963.

Interest in Egyptian studies is indicated by reports from a number of places throughout the country. As noted in the last Newsletter the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University is offering not only a course in Egyptian art but also one in the ancient language, under the guidance respectively of Bernard V. Bothmer and Henry G. Fischer, trustees of the Center. Both of these courses have met with an enthusiastic reception from graduate students in the fine arts. Another Egyptological member of the Center, Professor Klaus Baer of the University of California at Berkeley, reports that he is teaching to crowded classrooms, and Professor Andreina Becker-Colonna writes that she has around forty students enrolled in a course on Ancient Egyptian Civilization offered by the University of California Extension in San Francisco and an equal number in a similar course she is giving at San Francisco State College. The Department of Mediterranean Archaeology of the latter institution is sponsoring a summer course in Egypt. This will begin in Cairo on June 19, 1963, and close at Istanbul on July 11. The final examination for students seeking credit will take place in the latter city. The course, however, is open to any persons interested in Egyptian Archaeology; it will include a visit of the principal monuments of Egypt as far south as Edfu. Any who wish to participate should write to Professor Becker-Colonna at San Francisco State College, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco 27.

Arabic studies are not being neglected. It is impossible to list here the large number of American universities which are offering courses in that language and in the medieval and modern history and civilization of the Near East. It should be noted, however, that under the guidance of one of our members, Professor Aziz Atiya, courses in Arabic are being offered to pupils in the secondary schools of Salt Lake City. These are the first such courses to be given in the United States at high-school level.

Dr. George Scanlon, formerly fellow of the Center and for one season director in Cairo, will participate in the Center's excavation at Gebel Adda. As has previously been noted, the site includes Islamic remains, to the study of which Dr. Scanlon will bring a valued experience in medieval architecture and paleography.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

This section must be prefaced with a mention of the first volume of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT. Since this volume is now in the hands of members, the articles it contains need no analysis. It might be re-emphasized, however, that the Center is indeed grateful to those members who have contributed to the cost of producing the volume and to the contributors and the editor who have made it a dignified and scholarly publication.

Ettinghausen, Richard, Ancient Glass in the Freer Gallery of Art. Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1962, 44 pp.; illus., col. plates; bibliography.

This scholarly catalogue, which includes early glass from the Near East and China in the Freer Gallery, illustrates and describes what is probably the most extensive collection of Eighteenth Dynasty glass in the United States, as well as later pieces of Egyptian origin and outstanding examples of the enamelled glass of the Islamic period, chiefly from Syria.

----- Arab Painting, Cleveland, The World Publishing Company, 1962, 211 p., incl. numerous col. plates (Editions d'art Albert Skira: Treasures of Aria).

It is impossible in a brief notice to give an adequate idea of the value of this volume on the earliest painting of Islam, from the Mohammedan conquest until the end of the fourteenth century. The text will long remain the best introduction to Muslim miniature painting, and the illustrations are among the handsomest of all the "Skira books."

Goedicke, Hans, and Wente, Edward F., Ostraka Michaelides. Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 1962, 26 pp., 94 plates.

The hieratic ostraca in the collection of Georges Michaelides are for the most part of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasties and from the Theban region, chiefly from Deir el Medineh. The present volume is a catalogue, with brief indication of the subject matter of each item but without translation. A large number of the ostraca consist of fragments of literary documents, mostly known texts. Others, religious in nature, include hymns, prayers, and (exceptionally) an extract from the ritual of Amun. The remainder have to do with legal and administrative matters, the organization of work, supplies, accounts, etc. The plates give the hieratic facsimile and a hieroglyphic transcription of each document. Both authors are members of the Center; it is hardly necessary to remind readers of the Newsletters that the co-author Dr. Wente, is a former director of the Center in Cairo.

Kiang, Dawson, "An Unpublished Coin Portrait of Ptolemy VI Philometor," in The American Numismatic Society Museum Notes X, 1962, p. 69-76; plate.

In a well-reasoned and well-documented note, Mr. Kiang, a fellow of the Center at present in Alexandria, attributes on stylistic and iconographic

grounds a coin newly acquired by the American Numismatic Society, and two much-discussed gems in the Louvre as well, to Ptolemy VI. His article is not only of numismatic interest, but a contribution to the evolution of Ptolemaic art in Egypt.

Simpson, William Kelly, "Nubia: 1962 Excavations at Toshka and Arminna", in Expedition, the Bulletin of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania 4 (No. 4), Summer 1962, p. 37-46; illus., map.

Professor Simpson's article describes the second season of excavation by the Yale-Pennsylvania Expedition, the work of which has been noted in previous Newsletters. Members who heard Professor Simpson's talk on the excavations at the Annual Meeting of the Center will welcome this well-illustrated and more detailed account of the findings of the Expedition.

Terrace, Edward L. B., The Art of the Ancient Near East in Boston. Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, 1962; illus., plates (some col.); map; bibliography.

Sixty-one pieces from the small but fine collection of objects from Western Asia in the Museum of Fine Arts are here beautifully illustrated and briefly described. A short survey of Near Eastern art precedes the catalogue and a short bibliography and scholarly notes follow it. Most of the descriptions are enlivened by appropriate quotations from ancient texts. This is a remarkably well-planned and attractive little book.

Vermeule, Cornelius C., "A Ptolemaic Contribution Box in Boston," in The American Numismatic Society: Museum Notes X, p. 77-80; plates.

This small slotted box found in the region of Memphis, where Asklepios-Imhotep was especially venerated in Graeco-Roman times, seems to have been made for contributions made by visitors seeking health at some ancient shrine of the vicinity. It still contains a hoard of ten bronze coins (each of which, according to Dr. Vermeule, must have represented the day's wages of a common laborer), and it is interesting, though perhaps not especially relevant, that one of them is to be attributed to Ptolemy VI, whose coinage is discussed in the article by Mr. Kiang listed above. The box is ornamented by a head in relief probably representing Hygeia, and bears the Greek inscription "Be of Good Health!" On the lid is a coiled serpent typical of those on votive snake-coffins of the Egyptian Late Period.